

REMARKS

This Amendment is pursuant to a *Request for Continued Examination (RCE)*. New claims 21-24 have been added so that claims 1-24 are now in the application. Claims 3, 6, 9, 10, 13 and 16 have been allowed.

Claim 5 was objected to on the basis that "planes" should be --plane--. Claim 5 has been so amended.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Chang (US 6,122,144). Amended claim 1 is distinguished over Chang by reciting:

"the pole tip portion of the first pole piece having non-overlapping first and second components wherein the first component forms a portion of the head surface and the second component is recessed from the head surface and is magnetically connected to the first component; and

the second component having a width that is less than a width of the first component wherein said widths are parallel to the head surface and parallel to a major plane of the write gap layer;

a read head; and

the first pole piece being located between the read head and the second pole piece."

This structure is shown in Figs. 15-18 wherein the second component 204 of the first pole piece does not overlap the first component (P1HF) of the first pole piece and has a width which is less than the width of the first component. In support of his rejection the Examiner states:

"the pole tip portion 306 of the first pole piece having non-overlapping first and second components wherein the first component forms a portion of the ABS (the tapered structure defined by reference numerals 306/308/310 and a second component recessed from the ABS (the narrowed, reduced cross section portion defined by reference numerals 328/330 in figure 26) wherein the second component (reduced cross section portion) has a width which is less than the width of the first component and is entirely within a region which is recessed from the ABS."

Claim 1, as amended, recites the first pole piece as being located between the read head and the second pole piece. In contrast, Chang's second pole piece 220 is located between the read head 232 and the first pole piece 216 as applied by the Examiner. The first pole piece 220 in Fig. 26 of Chang

not have the configuration recited by Applicant, namely that the second component has a width that is less than the width of the first component wherein the second component is recessed from the head surface and the first component forms a portion of the head surface. Independent claims 7, 11, 17 and 19, which recite similar limitations as claim 1, are considered to be patentable over Chang for the same reasons as given in support for claim 1. Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 12, 14, 15, 18 and 29 are considered to be patentable over Chang for the same reasons as given in support for their parent claims.

New claim 21 is distinguished over Chang by reciting:

"the pole tip portion of the first pole piece layer having first and second components wherein the first component forms a portion of the head surface and the second component is recessed from the head surface and is magnetically connected to the first component;

the second component having a width that is less than a width of the first component wherein said widths are parallel to the head surface and parallel to a major thin film plane of the write gap layer;

the first pole piece layer having a base layer and a pedestal wherein the pedestal forms a portion of the head surface and is located between the head surface and the insulation stack; and

the pedestal interconnecting the base layer and the first component."

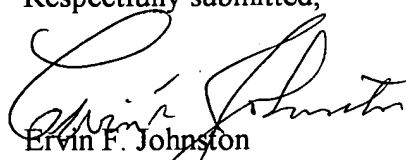
This structure is exemplified in Fig. 19 wherein the pole tip portion of the first pole piece (P1) has first and second components 202 and 204 wherein the first component 202 forms a portion of the head surface and the second component 204 is recessed from the head surface and is magnetically connected to the first component with the second component, as shown in Figs. 15-18, having a width that is less than a width of the first component and, as shown in Fig. 19, the first pole piece layer (P1) having a base layer 214 and a pedestal 206 wherein the pedestal 206 forms a portion of the head surface and is located between the head surface and the insulation stack about the coil. In contrast, Chang's first pole piece 220 in Fig. 26 does not have a pedestal nor does his first pole piece have first and second components wherein the second component has a width that is less than a width of the first component. New claim 23, which recites similar limitations as claim 21, is

considered to be patentable over Chang for the same reasons as given in support for claim 21. New claims 22 and 24 are considered to be patentable over Chang for the same reasons as given in support for their parent claims.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this document he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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